

PATRIOT

THE BEST IN THE AIR FORCE

439TH AIRLIFT WING • AIR FORCE RESERVE • WESTOVER AFB

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AUGUST 2002



439th AW MISSION: Actively support national objectives on a global scale with ready, mobility forces

Chief's Sight Picture—CORONA Top 2002

by Gen. John P. Jumper, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force

This year's CORONA Top was a true leadership gathering. The conference was held in conjunction with the Air Force's Transformation Summit which included representatives from industry, the political arena, and government.

One of our guest speakers, Herb Kelleher, President of Southwest Airlines told the audience that "only in change is there security," highlighting the reality that those who fail to adapt face an unenviable future. Another guest, Newt Gingrich, challenged us to "set very big goals with short timelines and delegate the authority to achieve those goals," emphasizing the ability to create your future through proactive involvement. Mark Herman, from Booze Allen & Hamilton reminded the audience that "transformation was a journey rather than a destination," underlying the fact that we must embrace change and the opportunities it provides. This open and candid forum validated many of the initiatives our Air Force is undertaking as we continue our journey to a bright and promising future.

One aspect of the post-September environment is the reality that we are no longer experiencing surge operations; rather, we are faced with a new, higher standard of operations tempo. And while our operational rhythm will fluctuate with world events, it is unlikely we will return to a pre-September level. Given this new reality, our success hinges on the ability to meet our future head-on. This requires a responsive, agile, and deployable force, presented in the form of the AEF. Flexibility is a key element of our rich heritage and will remain so in the future.

Proactive Adjustments

Unfortunately, our past success guarantees nothing, further it can potentially stifle creative thought. The Air Force can ill afford to merely standby and watch the future play out. We must proactively engage those areas within our control to maintain our combat effectiveness. Several such areas were addressed at CORONA Top.

One opportunity before us is to expand the number of USAF members included in our deployment UTCs and to ensure that, to the extent possible, we deploy our forces as units as opposed to the piece meal fashion with which we have become all too familiar. We must develop properly sized UTCs for everything we do. This does two things: it provides all Airmen the opportunity to participate in our worldwide commitments, and it helps decrease the demand on those Airmen currently carrying more than their share of our deployment burden.

This effort will mesh with our "burn-down" plan to further reduce the impact of Stop

Continued on page 10



Gen. John P. Jumper

Briefs

Patriotic ceremony scheduled for Sept. 11

The 439th Airlift Wing will host a remembrance ceremony on Sept. 11. The ceremony is titled, "A Grateful Nation Remembers — A Day of Tribute," and will recognize the first anniversary of the terrorist attack on America, acknowledge POW/MIA month, and celebrate the 55th anniversary of the Air Force.

Open to all base personnel, community supporters and guests of honor, the event begins at 7:30 a.m. with a breakfast. Highlights include a guest speaker, band, memorabilia displays and remembrance ceremonies. Ticket cost is \$15. Call SrA. Rachel Garcia at Ext. 2514 for information.

F-16 simulator at Mall

On Aug. 10 - 11, The Air Force Experience F-16 Simulator and the Air Force Reserve Command SCCA ProRally Race Car will be on display at the Holyoke Mall.

The Air Force Experience is a high-tech, interactive, multimedia event that will put you as close to the pilot seat of an engaged F-16 Fighting Falcon as a civilian can get. See <http://www.holyokemall.com>.

AF-wide lodging creates toll-free number

SAN ANTONIO — The Air Force Services Agency has established a toll-free centralized number to help people reach any base lodging operation in the continental United States. The number, 1-888-AF Lodge, eliminates having to dig for individual lodging connections to make reservations. Plus, the property management software that lodging operations are converting to is awaiting funding approval for another option to make online reservations through the Air Force Portal website.

August UTA schedule
A UTA Aug. 3-4
B UTA Aug. 17-18

Cover Photo

BREAK IN SERVICE — Members of the fire department out-process at Westover's Base Hangar in June through the first, post-9/11 demobilization line. —Photo by MSgt. W.C. Pope

PATRIOT

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Selected demobilization begins

by SrA T.R. Ouellette

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper recently announced a planned demobilization of reserve component forces. However, how his announcement will effect reservists remain unclear.

In the May 3 edition of "The Chief's Sight," Jumper said, "our mobilized guardsmen and reservists want to know when to expect demobilization. The deputy chief of staff for Air and Space operations is coordinating an effort to evaluate our mission needs and to determine which Air Force specialties can be demobilized as soon as possible."

"As soon as any official word about demobilization is received, we will notify the proper units," said MSgt. Anna Bradshaw, chief of personnel readiness with the 439th MSS.

Since Gen. Jumper's announcement, four Westover units have been officially demobilized.

As of publishing date, nine members from the 439th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron and the two members of the 722nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron, located at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn, New York, have been demobilized Aug. 2," said Bradshaw.

Twenty-four members the 58th Aerial Port Squadron, originally activated for one year, received an execution order officially demobilizing them July 8. The remaining members from the same squadron that were activated for 120 days and the firefighters of the 439 Civil Engineering Squadron were also demobilized July 8, according to Bradshaw.

Because the demobilization of reserve component forces will be based on specific conditions and mission needs, it is impossible to speculate on exactly who and when demobilization will occur.

"Be assured that until you hear it from wing leadership, it is a rumor. I will do my utmost to get you the straight word as soon as I know it," said Col. Martin M. Mazick, 439th Airlift Wing commander.

Bradshaw did say she does not expect demobilization of every unit to happen simultaneously.

"Westover has 1,200 activated people, not everyone will be demobilized at the same time, so I expect instructions on demobilization per unit by unit," she said.



THIN BLUE LINE — SSgt. Tiffany Mason from 439th MPF reviews a DD-214 form with TSgt. Dennis Primiano from the fire department as he makes his way through the demobilization line in July.

—photo by MSgt. W.C. Pope



INNOVATIVE TEAM — (Top) CMSgt. Beverly Cote, MSgt. Shane Robitaille, (bottom) TSgt. Sandra Mundt, and TSgt. Charles Fareira initiated the new DD-214 program that will be implemented throughout the Air Force.

Westover MPF develops better DD-214

Article and photo by MSgt. W.C. Pope

The Air Force will be adopting a faster, error-free DD-214 program created by members of the 439th Military Personnel Flight under the leadership of MSgt. Shane Robitaille, CMSgt. Beverly Cote, TSgt. Sandra Mundt, and TSgt. Charles Fareira.

The DD-214, Report of Separation, is completed for all reservists discharged from active duty status. This form is a summary of the airman's length of active duty, awards, decorations, discharge status and other pertinent information.

"The old form can take up to an hour-and-a-half to complete for each individual," said Robitaille. "The new form can be created in five to ten minutes." This is accomplished online where the needed information from a number of different offices is collected on the form as it is filled out.

When the activations started last year, Robitaille and the MPF staff looked to the future

when large numbers of reservists would be deactivated and they would be overwhelmed with DD-214s. According to Robitaille, they pulled together experience and skills from the civilian world and meshed them with the military computer programs.

The idea was sent up to the Air Force Personnel Center where the Air Force Reserve Command, and eventually the Department of the Air Force, gave the green light to go ahead with the project.

In mid-June, they represented their brainchild to the Air Force Reserve Command at a DD-214 Conference held in San Antonio. Besides AFRC, representatives from the other commands including Air National Guard, and the Air Force Personnel Center participated.

The program was well-received and the Air Force will test the program in August and it is scheduled to be implemented in September.

Civic leaders tour Wright-Patterson AFB

by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Forty-two men and women from Western Massachusetts flew aboard a Westover C-5 in June to Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, to get a first-hand look at today's Air Force operations.

The group made up this year's Civic Leader Tour, an annual event set up by the 439th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office. Col. Martin M. Mazick, 439th AW commander, flew with the group.

The June 26-27 tour took the visitors to locations around Wright-Patterson's 8,000 acres. Tours and briefings took place at the Aeronautical Systems Center, the Air Force Research Laboratory, and at the Air Force Museum.

"It's good to get out and see how people are in today's military," said Paul Barkett, who is a laboratory manager at Hamilton Sundstrand, a United Technologies company

located in Windsor Locks, Conn.

Joanne Tew, outside marketing manager at Foxwoods Resorts and Casino in Mashantucket, Conn., touts the tour of the Air Force Museum as her favorite. "I didn't know there were so many airplanes. It was beautiful," Tew said. "I liked learning about the (Air Force) history. You learn about all these things growing up. You never can never quite picture what it really is. I loved very bit of the trip, and the way it was coordinated and the way we were treated. They made us feel very much at home."

"The reason the Air Force Reserve Command promotes Civic Leader Tours is to foster community understanding and support through education. These trips give community leaders the chance to see what our reservists do everyday," said Gordon A. Newell, chief of Public Affairs.



ENGINEER'S PANEL - SMSgt. Fred Parret, a flight engineer assigned to the 337th Airlift Squadron, explains the intricacies of his job to a civic leader on a flight to Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio in June.

Pentagon official tells 439th members, 'Congress is interested in military'

by Maj. Wilson Camelo

As reservists play a larger and more seamless role with active duty members, improved pay, lowering the age for receiving retirement pay, and expanding the time reservists can use their Montgomery G.I. Bill for Selective Reserve benefits are becoming increasingly important issues.

These issues, and others, are currently being proposed in the president's fiscal 2003 budget. Westover reservists learned first-hand the status of these and other proposed legislation during a July 13 visit here by the chief of the Air Force Reserve Office's Policy Integration Directorate at the Pentagon.

Speaking to a mixed audience of officers and enlisted members, Wayne R. Gracie said Air Force leadership is working closely with Congress for reservists' benefits.

While there are fewer members of Congress today that have military experience, Gracie said Congress is as focused on the military and benefits today as they've ever been.

"Congress is very, very interested in the military and potential fiscal year 2003 legislation is very favorable to reservists and their families," he said, noting that the actions he briefed were still proposals and not yet law.

Among the current proposals in the president's budget he discussed were across the board and targeted pay increases, reducing the age for receipt of reserve retired pay from 60 to 55 years old, and expanding the time members could use Montgomery G.I. Bill for Selective Reserve educational benefits from 10 to 14 years.

On the pay raise issue, the current proposed president's budget recommends a 4.1 percent across the board pay increase with an option for targeted raises for mid-career members and those with skills in high demand in the private sector. If passed, the 4.1 percent increase would be the fourth consecutive year that military pay raises would be above the employment cost index, an inflation-related measure.

Retirement benefits are also being addressed in the current legisla-

tive session through House Resolution 3831 that proposes reducing the age for receipt of reserve retirement pay from 60 to 55 years old. Sponsored by Representative Jim Saxton (R-N.J.), the resolution has 125 cosponsors in the House of Representatives and is also being addressed in a separate resolution in the Senate.

Gracie said he doesn't expect a decision on this issue this legislative year because of the limited sessions remaining because it's an election year, and Congress typically adjourns earlier to allow incumbents to campaign in their home states prior to the November elections.

Gracie also provided the attendees with an outlook on future initiatives his office is working on with Congress. Among the future actions being considered are improving housing allowance for reserve component members without dependents, streamlining active duty retiree to reserve accessions, reducing the service requirement for non-regular retirement to six years and a tax credit for employers and self-employed reservists.

In addition, Gracie outlined other issues that aren't currently being proposed but that his office is looking at such as unlimited commissary privileges, tax relief for drilling reservists and eventually reducing the reserve service requirement for retirement to zero.

Gracie also explained that reservists, as citizen airmen, have numerous organizations they can turn to that serve as avenues for change. Military organizations such as his and professional military associations provide a way for reservist's concerns to be heard. Gracie encourages reservists to communicate with their elected officials on their personal time.

The 439th Airlift Wing Commander Col. Martin Mazick echoed that sentiment saying that as private citizens everyone has the right to communicate directly with his or her elected representatives. He also cautioned against using government resources or time to conduct these types of actions because military members cannot lobby.

More information on the status of all proposed legislation is located on the directorate's web site at <http://www.re.hq.af.mil>.

Two Westover reservists help to make Bagram AB operational

by TSgt. Andrew Reitano

For 22 and six years respectively, TSgt. Laurie Willabay and SSgt. Dawn Rivet thought they knew their jobs and responsibilities as airfield managers pretty well.

The two were experts in their jobs and in positions they thought would, for the most part, keep them from deploying overseas during contingencies since they were critical cogs in keeping Westover's airfield open for transient aircraft.

Then came Sept. 11 and Operation Enduring Freedom.

The pair were summoned in January to deploy to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, and quickly learned that being airmen first takes precedence over one's specific job title; especially in a bare-base location halfway around the world.

"For the first few weeks, SSgt. Rivet and I found ourselves other jobs that we could help to build up the base," said Willabay. "The unit we were supposed to be attached to didn't even arrive until three weeks later."

"We found things to do because the controllers were still running the airfield," said Willabay. "Everything we did the first three weeks was because we took the initiative and asked, 'Can we help you with that? Is there something we can do here?' Otherwise, we just would have been sitting there reading books and writing letters."

Some of the work included administration functions for the forward air controllers and combat controllers who were managing the airstrip, learning to operate and maintain the fueling system for the control tower generators, organizing incoming supplies, and beginning the certification pro-

cess to handle mail duties.

However, from the time the Tanker Air-lift Control Element left to Willabay and Rivet assuming their primary airfield management duties, they ran an interim command post. "Up until new personnel arrived, we provided 16-hour coverage, seven days a week for more than two weeks," said Rivet.

If having no prior command post experience wasn't tough enough, the two airmen had to deal with an even bigger challenge when the Allied Forces launched Operation Anaconda. As on any Air base, the command post is responsible for coordinating messages and information between a variety of units during an exercise or real-world scenario. Willabay and Rivet kept the information flowing during the week-long campaign of rooting out Taliban and al-Qaeda forces in the Shah-I-Kot mountains of eastern Afghanistan.

Once Willabay and Rivet began to settle into their airfield management roles, they soon discovered that their duties in the war-torn country would be nothing like those at

aircraft and personnel."

When talking about building up the airfield, one might visualize Willabay and Rivet with shovels filling holes in the runway. "We didn't have to fill in patches literally ourselves, but we did just about everything else," said Willabay jokingly.

"Visualize nothing more than a paved strip with none of the safety features you find at most operational airfields."

Being responsible for keeping the airfield clean and safe, both women even learned how to operate sweepers. "A few weeks after I got back, I was driving along [Route] 33 (in

Chicopee) and saw a street sweeper and said to myself, 'Hey, I know how to drive one of those things,'" said Willabay.

Although they may not be able to directly apply everything they learned at Bagram to Westover, one thing that they do bring back is a deeper sense of appreciation. "When I walked around the airfield here, I never thought much about the white lines on the ground," said Rivet. "In Bagram, we had to use some locally purchased paint to create the safety lines and markings on the airfield ourselves. I've learned to appreciate the simple aspects of my job a lot more since I had to become more involved with them in Afghanistan."

Being able to go above and beyond what was expected of them relates largely to their initiative, Willabay said. "Initiative was something that we brought with us, we didn't just find it in Afghanistan," said Willabay.

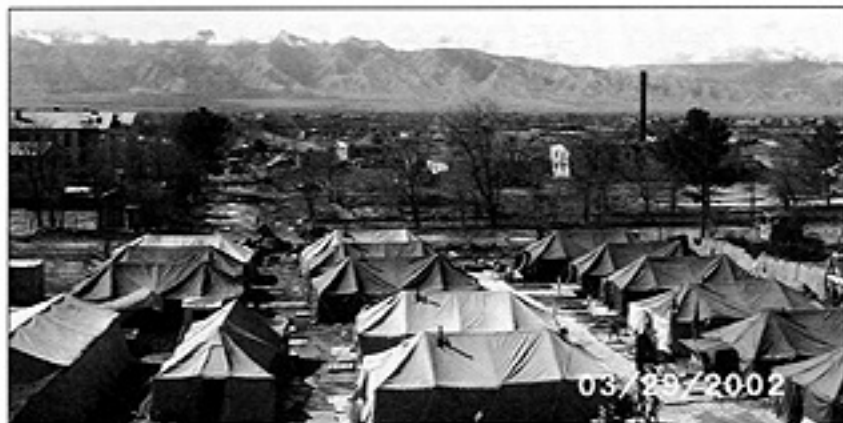
"The living conditions weren't spectacular, and the work days were long and strenuous, but both of us see our time at Bagram as a learning experience," added Rivet. "I don't think we did anything special. We were part of a team of people doing extraordinary things."



TSgt. Laurie Willabay



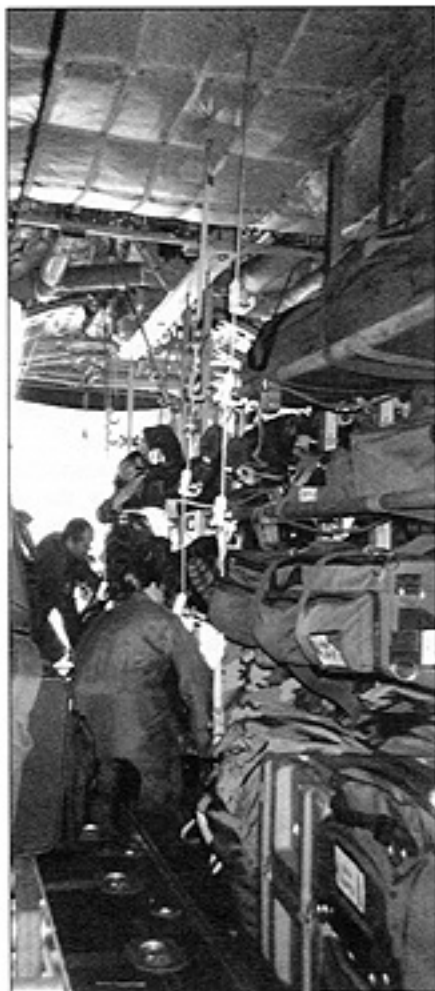
SSgt. Dawn Rivet



NOT THE RITZ — Air Force Village, at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan, was home-away-from-home for two Westover reservists.

—photo courtesy of SSgt. Dawn Rivet

Westover. "As airfield managers at Westover, our jobs are more service-oriented in the sense that we're dealing with flight plans, computer security, and issuing flight pubs to the aircrews," said Willabay. "In Bagram, our mission was to build up the airfield to provide a safe environment for the

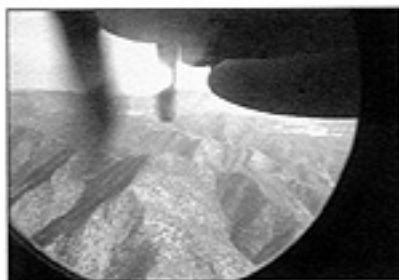


Scorpion Shield 2002



PATIENT ENDURANCE — Eight members of Westover's 439th ASTS participated in Scorpion Shield, a tri-service national medical exercise held end-of-May through mid-June. The exercise tests skills in (engine-running) loading and off-loading patients, triage and configuring aircraft for patients. Westover members loaded more than 50 patients onto C-130's over a two-day period at Peterson AFB, Colo.

Team included: TSgts. Helen Crouch, Patrick Conway, Gary Van Wie, Reginald Wilson, SSgts. David Koretsky and Karen Hutchinson, SrA. David Neulenaere and A1C Amy Villalobos.



Photos courtesy of the 439th ASTS

Ribbon-cutting held for base's new control tower

Article and photo by
SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Westover opened its new control tower in June with a ribbon-cutting and a visit from local congressmen.

Col. Martin M. Mazick, 439th Air-lift Wing commander, hosted the ribbon-cutting. The \$4 million, 10-story tower replaces the outdated one that stood for nearly 40 years at the base.

The new tower stands 20 feet higher than its predecessor and boasts state-of-the-art electronics and better visibility, said Capt. Michael Pirrone, airfield manager and an air traffic controller himself. Because of the pull-through hangar on the south end of the aircraft ramp, controllers could not see some areas of the airfield any longer from the old tower. The new building is set further north and closer to the main runway and taxiways. Its controllers handle both military and civilian flights from the base and the adjoining Westover Metropolitan Airport.

Controllers climbed 147 stairs to get to their old perch. The new



TOWERS OF THE COMMUNITY — Col. Martin M. Mazick speaks to a group at the ribbon cutting for the new tower accompanied by Congressman John Oliver, Congressman Richard Neal and Chicopee Mayor Richard Kos.

tower solved that problem with an elevator. Tower Chief Ron Bainbridge works with Pirrone and six other Department of Defense air controllers. He has been a controller since 1969, and said there is more to guiding Westover's air traffic than meets the eye. Between 40,000 and 50,000 landings and departures take place each year on the airfield, he said.

"We handle military helicopter traffic from Bradley (Connecticut)," he said. "You don't just work the traffic here." In addition to the C-5 mission, Westover controllers assist pilots in such aircraft as the Air Force's C-130s, KC-135s, C-141s, KC-10s and the Navy's P-3s. "It amazes people when we tell them what type of aircraft we work here," Bainbridge said.

And the extra space in the new tower is something controller Carl Limberg is especially appreciating. "We were just jammed in up there," Limberg said, as he looked over at the old tower. Limberg has more than 35 years of experience as a controller, and some of those years he spent at Westover during the height of the Cold War.

Special Family Support Supplement to the Patriot

Family

Westover Air Reserve Base

Support

August 2002

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY! SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7

Details...inside

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POST-DEPLOYMENT "THE HONEYMOON PERIOD"

Post-deployment is considered the "honeymoon" period in which couples reunite physically, but not emotionally. Intimacy may require time in order for couples to reconnect emotionally. The military member feels pressured to make up for lost time, spoiling the children and unraveling the checks and balances that were asserted during their absence.

Priorities also have changed, and it is unrealistic for the military member to expect everything to be the same as before he/she left.

Spouses may consider themselves to be the "true" heroes caring for house, children, paying bills, etc. when the military member was in charge of only themselves. Spouses may have to *adapt* to changes such as now having their spouse home underfoot causing irritation. They may desire their own space and household chores may have to be renegotiated. The role played by each spouse in the marriage may have to be renegotiated.

Reunions with children can also prove to be a challenging issue. Depending on the age of the child and their understanding of the reason for their parent's separation, their reaction to homecoming can vary greatly. Toddlers may be slow to

warm up, preschoolers may feel scared, and children ages 6-12 may want a great deal of attention and teenagers may exhibit moodiness. In addition, the homecoming spouse may not approve of some of the privileges that have been granted in their absence. It is best for the military member not to try to make changes right away, just take the time to reevaluate the situation. This may also require having to renegotiate family rules and norms.

Not heeding this advice, the military member risks invalidating the efforts of his/her mate and alienating the children.

Post-deployment is probably the most important stage for military members and their spouse. Patient communication, going slow, lowering expectations and taking time to get to know each other again is critical in lessening the stress of homecoming. On the brighter side, this phase also provides the individuals the chance to evaluate changes within themselves and what direction they want their marriage to take. Handled appropriately, it can be the catalyst to reinforce the relationship and strengthen the marriage.

Excerpts from HOORAH 4 Health

"Our decision to take a vacation in Myrtle Beach immediately following my return, had nothing but positive effects for myself and my family. Not immediately going back to the norms and having fun with my family was 'the best!'" MSgt McGraw

*"If anyone deserves a medal, it's my wife Tracy!"
MSgt Needham*

Special Family Support Supplement to the Patriot

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Family Support August 2002

SLIPPED ANOTHER MICKEY!

Walt Disney World has extended its "Disney's Armed Forces Salute" program for those individuals who were deployed during the first offer. Many of Westover's own have taken advantage of this offer and experienced a "fabulous" and economical vacation for the entire family.

On April 1, Shades of Green closed for 18 months. Military members and their families eligible for Shades of Green will receive the same rates at other Disney hotels, with the exception of an 11 percent state and local room tax. For specific offers and program eligibility, contact Disney at the following e-mail address:

WDW.Guest.Communications@disney.com

439th Airlift Wing Family Day 2002 Fun, Food, Activities for All Ages Saturday, September 7, 2002

Westover will once again sponsor Family Day on Saturday, September 7th. It promises to be a fun-filled day for the entire family!

The Family Support Center will host a *Family Day Forum* for the spouses from 7:30 - 9:30 am at the Wing Conference Center. Activities will be set up for the children as well as breakfast snacks for all. We have arranged to have booths set up to answer any questions you may have regarding:

Space "A" Travel

Finance

Legal Office

Tricare

United Concordia

AAFES (Exchange Services)

MWR (Morale, Welfare & Recreation Services)

Pioneer Valley USO

CHIPS (Children's Identification System)

We look forward to seeing you there. The Family Day activities will begin shortly after the Family Day Forum. See flyer page 4!

AF CROSSROADS PROVIDES G.I. MAIL

A new service is available through the Air Force Crossroads web site. G.I. Mail is now available to facilitate morale communication among "away from home" members and their families. Visit the Air Force Crossroads website at www.afcrossroads.com and select the Communications Center file. From there you will find all the needed instructions to set up your G.I. mail account. Only members and families who are registered in the DEERS system can set up a G.I. Mail account.

SERVICES FOR FAMILIES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

There is a nationwide, special needs network that can connect families to special needs services. For more information go to www.mfrc.calib.com/snn/forums.

CHARITY DOESN'T JUST BEGIN AT HOME!

The Air Force Aid Society, Inc. (AFAS) is the official charity of the United States Air Force. It promotes the Air Force mission by providing worldwide **emergency** assistance to members and their families, and offers a variety of base community enhancement programs.

In 2001, total direct assistance to Air Force members and families totaled \$25,443,136.00—over 32,000 people helped... Over \$370,000 to Guard and Reserve! Some examples:

- Food, rent, utility money to more than 100 reservists who received partial or no pay after being called up after September 11
- Over \$7,500 in grants to ANG members for emergency travel
- Home repair expenses for a reservist whose heating system was leaking carbon monoxide

The Family Support Center at Westover has the authority to write checks for hardship situations that are approved by Air Force Aid Society.

For more information call or visit the Family Support Center.

Special Family Support Supplement to the Patriot

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Family Support August 2002

WESTOVER CHOSEN FOR THE NEW-MAN'S OWN AWARD!

Newman's Own Awards Program seeks to reward ingenuity and innovation for organizations working to improve military quality of life. Fifteen organizations out of 132 that entered were chosen to receive monetary awards. The USO submitted a request reflecting the efforts put forth into "Operation Pillowcase". Sandy Wakefield, Director of the USO and TSgt Kimberly Babin, Family Support Center Technician, provided the necessary input to secure the award.

Operation Pillowcase is an on-going effort to provide pillowcases to the children of deployed members with pictures of the deployed parent depicted for each child. Funds for the program are used for purchase of transfers, pillowcases, camera equipment, and mailing expenses. The \$3,000 award received will assist in the funding to keep this "popular" program alive.

Congratulations...to TSgt Babin and Sandy Wakefield for a job well done!

WEBSITES TO RESEARCH BEFORE TRAVELING WITH THE KIDS

Traveling with children can be stressful unless research is done beforehand to keep children amused along the way. Two fun websites for places to visit with children and loaded with ideas to keep the children busy, and mom and dad sane are: www.roadsideamerica.com and www.travelwithkids.about.com. Check out the links at these websites for a wealth of entertaining information.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is to try to please everyone."

Bill Cosby

THE UNSUNG HERO

We often hear about the heroes in the armed forces because of heroic acts performed; however, we rarely recognize the true "unsung heroes" of our armed forces—our family members (husbands, wives and children, and sometimes parents) who perform heroic acts repeatedly as things rarely go wrong until the military member is called to duty.

Our families experience sacrifices too numerous to count while we are performing for our country. We miss ball games, recitals, birthdays, anniversaries just to name a few of the many sacrifices our families endure in our absence.

How many husbands and wives, sit for weeks and months on end while their loved one is TDY on a contingency, worrying and praying for their safe return. Is there a greater sacrifice than handing your most precious gift over for the defense of the country, never knowing if you will see their beloved face again?

How many spouses spend lonely hours not having their loved one to share the news "we're going to have a baby" or "I've developed a terminal illness" or "our son has an incurable disease".

These are the heroic acts endured over and over and over again in our military families, known to no one, suffered in silence. These are our "unsung heroes".

Author unknown

OTHER HELPFUL INTERNET RESOURCES

DEERS website—www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/deers

Military information—www.defenselink.mil

United Way—www.unitedway.org

Air Force Reserve Family Readiness Information—

www.afrc.af.mil/reserveInfo.htm (click on Family Information to review "Operations Security for the Family Overview")

Military Interest Items—www.military.com

Air Force Crossroads—www.afcrossroads.com

Army/Air Force Exchange—www.aafes.com

Employment/Reemployment Rights—www.esgr.org

Military Pay—www.dfas/mil

Tricare Medical—www.tricare.osd.mil

Dental—www.ucci.com/tdp/tdp.html

439 Wing Family Day

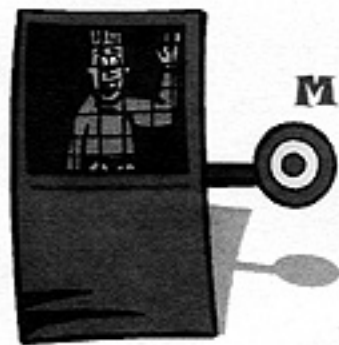
7 September 2002

Picnic

1200 - 1700



HAY RIDES FOR KIDS
CLOWNS - ICE CREAM
HORSESHOES - VOLLEYBALL
RAFFLES - PRIZES DISPLAYS
FACE PAINTING
FUN ZONES
MORNING FITNESS CHALLENGE
DUNKING BOOTH
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NEW BEST FRIENDS — Members of the 42nd Aerial Port Squadron deployed to Southwest Asia, claimed a 'first' recently when they help deploy Romanian troops into Afghanistan. At left, American and their former enemy — Romanian troops — pose for photo.

Photo courtesy of 42nd APS personnel



Photo courtesy of 439th CES personnel

Around the world on many missions

Westover continues to serve on deployments around the world. At left, reservists drill a "bunker dive" in Southwest Asia. Forty Westover members from the 439th CES deployed to that location. Lower left, 439th CES firefighters show that necessity is the mother of innovation as they open their own barber shop in the desert — no waiting, no cost, no complaints. From left are SrA Ryan Longtin, TSgt. Joe Visser, Amn Shane Kouflie (sitting). In bottom photo, MSgt. Michael Ashman (top), SSgt. Mark Nowak (right), and TSgt. Keith Roussele (front), 439th Aircraft Generation Squadron, ready a main landing gear strut June 19 prior to its installation on a C-5 Galaxy at a forward-deployed location supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.



Photo courtesy of 439th CES personnel



U.S. Air Force photo by SSgt. Sarah Webb-Frost

Safe driving tips emphasized for motorcycle buffs

By Lt. Col. Dave Moore
439th AW Chief of Safety

This fiscal year has more than three months remaining. However, we have already surpassed the entire number of off duty fatalities we experienced last year. Particularly disturbing are this year's motorcycle fatality statistics. This year we've had 15 motorcycle fatalities to last year's nine. These are the kind of statistics that get the attention of the Air Force's senior leaders.

Commanders and supervisors are charged with the enormous task of preserving our precious human resources.

Commanders/supervisors should brief their troops on the following minimum requirements for motorcycle safety:

These requirements apply on duty and off duty, regardless of state law:

- Everyone needs to complete a Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) course to drive a motorcycle, moped or motor scooter on an Air Force installation. NOTE: Military personnel (including activated reservists) need to complete this course even if you don't ride your bike on base.
- Only operators ride mopeds-no passengers
- Headlights must be on unless prohibited by the status of forces Agreement or local laws.
- Vehicle must have rear-view mirrors
- Operator and passenger must wear a protective helmet. **Note: Helmet must meet, as a minimum, Department of Transportation**

REQUIREMENTS---



(DoT) standards and be properly worn and fastened. Helmets may also meet other standards such as the Snell Memorial Foundation or the American National Standards Institute. If stationed overseas, personnel may use host-nation certified, equivalent helmets.

- To increase visibility of riders, they are encouraged to affix reflective material to their helmets.
- Operator and any passenger must wear impact resistant goggles or a full-face shield on their helmet. **EXCEPTION:** Goggles or a full face shield are not required for the operator if the motorcycle is equipped with a

windshield that is equal in height to or above the top of the helmet of the properly upright-seated operator.

- Brightly colored or contrasting vest or jacket as an outer garment during the day and reflective during the night. Outer upper garment will be clearly visible and not covered.
- Long sleeved shirts or jackets, full fingered motorcycle gloves or mittens, and long trousers.
- Sturdy footwear. Leather boots or over-the ankle shoes are strongly encouraged.

The authority is AFI 91-207, The US Air Force Traffic Safety Program. Call the safety office at 3587 if you need more information.



EASY RIDERS — Motorcycle-riding members of the 439th Airlift Wing pose for a picture in front of the C-5. The photo is scheduled to be included in a military tribute issue of *American Iron Magazine*, a motorcycle enthusiasts publication.

—Photo by
TSgt. Andrew Reitano

Communications manager Bob Mayo dies at 72

by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe
and AIC Mary Gallagher

Robert Mayo, a former chief master sergeant and communications manager at Westover, died on June 14 at Mercy Medical Center in Springfield, following a long illness. He was 72.

Mayo was widely known on base. He was the communications and computer information systems officer with the 439th Communications Squadron until the fall of 2001, when he entered Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

His wife, Thomasina Mayo, is the ground safety manager in the 439th Airlift Wing Safety Office. "I'm overwhelmed and very appreciative to everyone," she said. "People were giving me support the whole time he was sick. I got lots of phone calls, cards, and a lot of support from people throughout the base. Bob loved the military, his job, and the people that worked for him."

Long-time friends like Freeman Wiley reflected on their memories of Mayo. Wiley, the 439th Support Group executive officer, formed a close friendship with him in 1988. "You could always go to him and check yourself in confidence," Wiley said, adding Mayo had at least one hallmark of an effective manager. "He



Robert Mayo

would always listen," he said.

Wiley and Mayo's active Air Force tour paths actually crossed earlier at Westover. Wiley was assigned to the base from 1966-1970; Mayo served with the 18th Communications Squadron about the same time.

"He always wanted to take care of his folks," Wiley said. "Bob was a very kind

person. He was very genuine, very supportive. He was always a gentleman; that's what always stood out about him." Mayo also was reluctant to ever leave the military completely. "He always said he would be retired when he was good and ready," Wiley said. "I think Bob would have been working today if he could."

CMSgt. Kathy Wood knew Mayo for more than 20 years. Wood and Mayo were members of several base committees and became friends. "He always had a sparkle in his eyes," Wood said. "When you spoke to Bob, you always felt at peace with yourself."

Joann Tucker was Mayo's personal secretary for four years in the communications squadron. Tucker remembered Mayo as someone who looked after everyone in the unit. "You didn't work for (Bob), you worked with him. He was a wonderful person. I am very lucky to have known him and worked for him," Tucker said.

Funeral services for Mayo were held on June 18 in Holyoke, with burial in Springfield.

Mayo was born in Jersey City, N.J., but had been in Springfield for 28 years. He received his bachelor's degree in business from the University of Maryland. He was a member of Bethlehem Baptist Community Church in Holyoke and leaves a daughter, two stepsons, two sisters, and four grandchildren.

439th recruiters become volunteer instructors in local schools

by TSgt. Andrew Reitano

Westover recruiters have taken an indirect approach to marketing the Air Force Reserve by becoming volunteer instructors at Chicopee Comprehensive High School and Central High School in Springfield through the Junior Achievement Program.

Founded in West Springfield by Horace Moses in 1919, Junior Achievement educates students in grades K-12 on business practices and economics to ensure they have a fundamental understanding of the free enterprise system. Since its beginning, JA has grown to 156 offices nation wide, and 110 countries.

"Junior Achievement enables caring adults to share their experience with students to show them what it takes to be successful," said Marilyn Haynes, Director of Programs and Education for Junior Achievement of Western Massachusetts, Inc.

Three recruiters began teaching eight one-hour weekly classes in April. SMSgt. Ron Tyson and SSgt. Alan Stevens taught entrepreneurship in a business class, while MSgt. Mike Formica taught success skills in a career development class. Stevens also taught lessons on criminal justice and history.

"The hardest part of teaching is getting the complete attention of the students who would rather surf the Internet than pay attention in class," said Stevens. "By using real-life examples, like creating slogans for new products, he had even disinterested students jumping out of their seats to get their ideas across to the class."

According to Haynes, through volunteer instructors, students receive several benefits: realistic and relevant views of the world beyond school, contact with role models who can help students ex-

plore career options and realize the importance of staying in school, and improved understanding of the economy. "It's a lot more effective when a volunteer from the community comes in and presents the material," said Haynes. "With the kind of training military personnel have, they make excellent role models."

The volunteers also benefit through Junior Achievement by taking pride in being role models and the knowledge that they are making a difference in children's lives. "The most rewarding part of teaching was explaining how the Air Force Reserve has always been a part of my life, and given me leadership and motivation to be president of my own company, Accuma," said Stevens.

Teachers also welcome JA programs because they enrich student learning and align with curriculum standards. "Having SMSgt. Tyson and SSgt. Stevens join my class brought another element to the class - their experience and working knowledge of the business world," said Jan Gil, a teacher at Chicopee Comprehensive.

According to Tyson, being volunteer instructors has allowed the kids to know the recruiters from a different perspective. "[JA] has enabled us [recruiters] to develop a relationship with a lot of the students in the high schools that we wouldn't have been able to cultivate," he said. Although the Air Force Reserve isn't for every graduating high school senior, many of them have referred their peers to the Air Force Reserve and recruiting has about six individuals who are seriously thinking about joining the Air Force Reserve.

Wing leadership is looking to expand the base's involvement in Junior Achievement by opening the program to additional reservists. For more information, contact SMSgt. Ron Tyson at Ext. 2125.

Chief's Sight Picture ... continued from page 2

Loss and to facilitate the demobilization of our Guard and Reserve professionals, allowing them to return to their pre 9-11 lives. Another key element is ensuring our deployed forces return to their home units upon completion of assigned tasks.

The demands on our deployed forces are increasingly dynamic. We will continue to emphasize training that guarantees our airmen are prepared to deploy fully mission capable, and ready to hit the ground running upon arrival at the deployed location. These efforts will dramatically enhance the capability of one of our most dynamic weapons systems, the Combined Air Operations Center (CAOC).

Capabilities Focus

The USAF is leading DoD's effort to transition from a program-centric focus to one based on capabilities and effects. We are taking transformational steps to maximize our warfighting capabilities. These include the standup of the Combat Wing Organization, the development of capabilities-based CONOPs, and changing the way we plan, program, and budget for the future.

Each of our six CONOPs continues to development through dedicated efforts of our MAJCOM and Air Staff champion. This increased fidelity ensures our ability to correctly prioritize funding.

Since the Air Force draws its capabilities from the AEF, our MAJCOMs must continue to align their forces with contingency operations to maximize operational effectiveness. These efforts provide greater warfighting flexibility.

Seamless Integration

We continue to emphasize the seamless integration of manned, unmanned, and space systems. It is through such integration that we achieve the greatest return on our investment in our warfighting capabilities. These integration efforts include fully integrating combat, mobility, and space forces into Joint Synthetic Battlespace simulations; creating "Red-Flag-like" training for our Mission Support Group commanders; and designating a greater role for ARC forces in the CAOC.

As DoD's Executive Agent for space, the Air Force has a responsibility to properly integrate space operations into DoD's warfighting structure. This will necessitate a far-reaching vision which will be closely monitored by our sister services and other organizations interested in space operations.

Conclusion

CORONA Top was an excellent vector check as we chart our course to remain the world's premiere air and space power. America's adversaries have demonstrated their willingness to challenge us both at home and abroad—make no mistake, the threat is real. Our nation's security can only be guaranteed through the dedication of its military professionals. The challenge before us is to proactively shape our future. America's freedom depends on it.



Kellam named AFRC Security Force NCO

SSgt. Christopher Kellam (left), of the 439th Security Forces, is AFRC's 2001 Outstanding Security Forces NCO-of-the-year. Presenting the award is Lt. Col. Roger D. Summerlin, 22nd AF security forces chief, formerly from Westover. Kellam earned the award for outstanding performance in both military and civilian activities.

—photo by SrA Tom Ouellette

Active support

Employers of activated reservists face unusual hardships during the ongoing war on terrorism. As a gesture of gratitude, and a continual effort to educate reservists' employers, the base hosted an Employer Appreciation Day on July 18 for bosses of activated reservists. At right, Jeanette DeForge, Union News reporter, interviews John Fitzgerald, SSgt. Richard Garcia's boss at the Hampden County Sheriff's office.



—Photo by SMSgt. Sandi Michon

439th Airlift Wing FY-2003 UTA schedule

	A UTA	B UTA
October	5-6	19-20
November	2-3	16-17
December	7-8	No B UTA
January	4-5	25-26
February	8-9	22-23
March	8-9	22-23
April	5-6	26-27
May	3-4	17-18
June	7-8	21-22
July	12-13	26-27
August	9-10	23-24
September	6-7	20-21

Patriot People

Name: Vanessa U. Simmons
Rank: TSgt.
Age: Forty something
Address: Billerica, Mass.
Unit: 439th Mission Support Squadron
Position: NCOIC, Customer Service
Civilian position: Project manager
Favorite food: Broccoli
Years of service: 20
Favorite sport: Basketball - go Lakers!
Favorite hobby: Doing handyman stuff
Ideal vacation: Any place warm
Best way to relax: Reading
Preferred entertainment: Hanging out with friends
Favorite hero: Any uniformed service member who was called to task and met it
Favorite music: '70s R&B
Favorite movie: "Imitation of Life"
Favorite aircraft: KC-135
Pet peeve: People who have power but no glory
What I would do if I won \$1 million: Ensure my mother was well taken care of, set up a trust for my daughter, and just enjoy ...



Photo by Ann. Mary Gallagher

TSgt. Vanessa U. Simmons

Patriot Praises

Promotions

CMSgt. Strouse, Joseph R.
 SMSgt. Bennis, Robert W.
 SMSgt. Carter, Lewis G.
 SMSgt. Johanns, Robert D.
 SMSgt. Johnson, Lex S.
 SMSgt. Kaulback, Jerry L.
 SMSgt. Leydet, Dennis J.
 SMSgt. Mackay, Steven D.
 SMSgt. Mancini, Anita L.
 SMSgt. Martel, Donald R.
 SMSgt. Philbrick, Ronald E.
 MSgt. Boczanowski, Joanne F.
 MSgt. Chouinard, Roger J.
 MSgt. Ferry, James H.
 MSgt. Forbes, William J.
 MSgt. Majewski, Robert V., Jr.
 MSgt. McCurdy, Lisa A.
 MSgt. McEwan, Alexander H.
 MSgt. Metcalf, Robert F.
 MSgt. Ouimette, Derek A.
 MSgt. Prior, Julie A.
 TSgt. Audet, Thomas E.
 TSgt. Beaudry, Thomas A.
 TSgt. Eastman, David C.
 TSgt. Dziokowski, Norman C.
 TSgt. Jelenieski, David A.
 TSgt. Gagon, Ronald A., Jr.
 TSgt. Grant, Gabriela M.
 TSgt. Ives, Brandon W.
 TSgt. Kirton, Floyd M.A.
 TSgt. Lassonde, Keith R.
 TSgt. McCroskey, Allison L.
 TSgt. Moorehead, Robert J.
 TSgt. Mutia, Wendall, B.O.
 TSgt. Pais, David A.
 TSgt. Stackpole, Kara B.
 TSgt. Villareal, Silas P.
 TSgt. Walte, Steven R.
 TSgt. Walker, Phaly S.
 TSgt. Wallace, Hayden A.
 TSgt. Warmley, Floyd III
 SSgt. Davis, Kara B.
 SSgt. Derderian, Arthur Jr.
 SSgt. Dewar, Lisa E.
 SSgt. Doyon, Paul J.

SSgt. Howard, Robert A.
 SSgt. Ortiz, Heriberto
 SSgt. Shouse, Kurt V.
 SSgt. Trudeau, Dean M.
 SSgt. Weichold, Alex K.
 SSgt. Wilson, Richard E.
 SSgt. Young, Jason J.
 SrA Anderson, Bryan
 SrA Bonaldi, Tina M.
 SrA Denis, Jheran
 SrA Gaines, Ian D.
 SrA Garcia, Rachel
 SrA Lajoie, Heather M.
 SrA Marlak, Anthony D.
 SrA Muller, Oliver T.
 SrA Pietrantonio, Michael R.
 SrA Puga, Lui S.
 SrA Villalobos, Amy E.
 SrA Wilder, Marvis L.
 SrA Ulloa, Martha
 A1C Gallagher, Mary E.
 A1C McGrath, John J., III
 A1C Smith, Christine A.
 Amn. Dion, Mariah A.

Reenlistments

CMSgt. Brady, James R.
 CMSgt. Lobianco, Frank Jr.
 SMSgt. Beaulieu, Ronald N.
 SMSgt. Carter, Lewis G.
 SMSgt. Coda, Richard L.
 SMSgt. Keay, James H.
 SMSgt. McKelligan, James M.
 SMSgt. Sullivan, Thomas E.
 MSgt. Demarco, Antonio
 MSgt. Middleton, Jack W.
 MSgt. Mongelli, Anthony P.
 MSgt. Perreault, George A., Jr.
 MSgt. Santoro, Nicholas J.
 TSgt. Bean, Lonnie S.
 TSgt. Bowen, Kevin M.
 TSgt. Czupkiewicz, Albert S., Jr.
 TSgt. Desmarais, Douglas A.
 TSgt. Falcone, Vincent F.
 TSgt. Gardner, Robert K., III
 TSgt. Hughes, William H.

TSgt. Hurley, Michael D.
 TSgt. Knight, Ralph E., Jr.
 TSgt. Lassonde, Keith R.
 TSgt. Murdza, Michael D.
 TSgt. Pleat, William T.
 TSgt. Poudrier, Donald E.
 TSgt. Sandova, John A.
 TSgt. Sorber, David H.
 TSgt. Willabay, Lauraine N.
 SSgt. Awad, Marc P.
 SSgt. Barker, Jonathan Perry
 SSgt. Davis, Christopher W.
 SSgt. Dozier, Charles P.
 SSgt. Dupuis, Dana A.
 SSgt. Hicks, William F.
 SSgt. Hincley, Kenneth L., III
 SSgt. Johnston, Scott Dale
 SSgt. Kennedy, William G., Jr.
 SSgt. Noury, James Richard
 SSgt. Reed, Jerome Fredrick
 SSgt. Watson, William M.
 SSgt. Werner, Stephan J.
 SrA Canady, Steven Lamont
 SrA Cormier, Michael Charles
 SrA Demers, David J.
 SrA Kicinski, James M.
 SrA King, Randall J., Jr.
 SrA Kutrubis, Kathy J.
 SrA McCordle, David M.
 SrA Preston, James D.
 SrA Turgeon, Michael Y.

Newly Assigned

TSgt. Campbell, Paul B.
 TSgt. Jones, Audrey J.
 SSgt. Baer, Christopher E.
 SSgt. Barker, Jonathan P.
 SSgt. Couture, David A.
 SSgt. Johnston, Scott D.
 SSgt. Lombard, Michael J.
 SSgt. Mangum, Duane E.
 SSgt. Mason, Tiffany L.
 SSgt. Noury, James Richard
 SSgt. Reed, Jerome F.
 SSgt. Sackett, Gregory J.
 SSgt. Windom, Anthony

SrA Kalin, Ashley A.
 SrA. Canady, Steven L.
 SrA Cormier, Michael Charles
 SrA Fitzgerald, Robert J.
 SrA Hamner, Kevin D.
 SrA Kicinski, James M.
 SrA Moats, Jayson E.
 SrA McCusker, Alexis C.
 SrA Picard, Dana J.
 SrA Robertson, John C.
 SrA Turgeon, Michael Y.
 A1C Babin, David A.
 A1C Boek, Richard A.
 A1C Dorso, Dolores A.
 A1C Doyle, Edward A., Jr.
 A1C Farmer, Eric J.
 A1C Glenn, Patrice S.
 A1C Guzzo, Jennifer L.
 A1C King, Krystal L.
 A1C Leonard, Jason E.
 A1C Leonard, Samantha R.
 A1C McKunes, MarkMichael M.
 A1C Nieves, Miguel A.
 A1C Phillips, Jessica L.
 A1C Spillane, John Sidney Jr.
 A1C Torres, Annette
 A1C Toth, Stephen A.
 A1C Velazquez, Jose Miguel
 A1C Wolde-Giorgis, Daniel A.
 AB Apjohn, Ashley M.
 AB Best, Shadonna T.
 AB Cleary, Russell M.
 AB Hamel, Daniel J.
 AB Forselius, Jason D.

Retirements

Lt. Col. Finkel, Burton R.
 MSgt. Conigliaro, Charles J.
 MSgt. Niemiec, Richard R.
 MSgt. Rose, Leroy T.
 TSgt. Bohlwell, Robert J.
 TSgt. Cobb, James J.
 SSgt. Wiggins, Kathy A.

Employer Appreciation Day scheduled for Oct. 5

by Gordon A. Newell

Westover reservists who were not activated after 9/11 will have the opportunity to invite their employer to the base Oct. 5.

The 439th Airlift Wing will sponsor an Employer Appreciation Day during the A UTA in October. The day's activities will begin with a breakfast at the Westover Club followed by an orientation flight aboard a unit C-5A for bosses.

To make reservations, reservists are asked to complete the application form that

appears on this page and return it to the Public Affairs office in Building 1850. (Be sure to include employer's social security number or their license number on the application.)

Col. Martin M. Mazick, commander of the 439th AW, feels it is an especially meaningful time for employers to learn what their workers do while they are at Westover.

"Continued employer outreach is critical to the success of our mission at Westover," he said. "Take the time to nominate your boss!"

Employers will be guests of the 439th AW at breakfast. They should be at the club

no later than 8 a.m. Breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m. Reservists may attend the breakfast but must pay for their own meal.

Reservists are allowed to invite just one supervisor. Only those reservists who are assigned to the aircrew will be allowed to fly.

The orientation flight will begin at 10:30 a.m. and last for approximately 90 minutes. After lunch (on their own) employers may accompany reservists to their duty stations.

Further information is available from the PA office at (413) 557-3500 or 2020.

WANTED: FEEDBACK

The PATRIOT is a base newspaper for and about Westover reservists. To encourage your input (letters to the editor, story leads, or other ideas) we have created an e-mail address dedicated for such feedback.

Write to the PATRIOT staff at: 439PatriotEditor@westover.af.mil.

Oct. 5 – Employer Appreciation Day

Reservist's name, rank and unit: _____

Reservist's home address: _____

Reservist's daytime telephone number: _____

Employer's name and title: _____

Employer's Social Security Number: _____

Employer's company name: _____

Breakfast for employer: YES _____ NO _____

Breakfast for reservist: YES _____ NO _____

I understand that I may nominate one person annually, and only an individual who is my supervisor, foreman, manager, etc.

Signature _____

(Falsification of information on this form can be punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.)

Return this form to:

439th Airlift Wing/ Public Affairs, 100 Lloyd St., East Wing, Suite 103
Westover ARB, Mass. 01022-1825

PATRIOT

PATRIOT online: <http://www.afrc.af.mil/439aw>



Published monthly for Patriots like CMSgt. John Budenas, 439th AW and 2,533 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.

439th AW/PA
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